

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-16 have been amended herein. All of the pending claims 1 through 16 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly, including:

at least one introducer having a longitudinal axis, the at least one introducer defining at least one passage;

an elongate tubular member slidably received within the at least one passage of the at least one introducer, the tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end and at least one lumen extending between the proximal end and the distal end; and

an elongate, one piece shape-imparting element received in the at least one lumen of the tubular member to extend from the proximal end of the tubular member and the at least one introducer and through the distal end of the tubular member, the one piece shape-imparting element imparting a predetermined shape to the distal end of the tubular member when the distal end of the tubular member is extended beyond a distal end of the at least one introducer, the predetermined shape including a formation in a plane substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the at least one introducer, a distal end of the one piece shape-imparting element extending beyond the at least one lumen of the tubular member and being anchored proximally a distal end of the introducer at a location external of the at least one introducer, wherein, due, at least in part, to the anchoring of the distal end of the one piece shape-imparting element to the at least one introducer, the formation is adjusted in the plane substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the at least one introducer in terms of an inner area of the predetermined shape in the plane substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the at least one introducer, when torsion is applied to the one piece shape-imparting element.

2. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim 1 in which 1, wherein a proximal end of the shape-imparting element is connectable to a control mechanism which, in use, applies torsion to the shape-imparting element to effect adjustment of the predetermined shape of the distal end of the tubular member.

3. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim 1 in which 1, wherein the predetermined shape imparted to the distal end of the tubular member is a loop formation.

4. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim 3 in which 3, wherein the tubular member forms a cranked arm when it is extended from its at least one introducer, the cranked arm being arranged transversely with respect to a longitudinal axis of the at least one introducer and the cranked arm leading into a spiral shape forming the loop formation.

5. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim 4 in which 4, wherein the spiral shape circumscribes at least 360°.

6. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim 4 in which 4, wherein the spiral shape circumscribes about 540°.

7. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim 4 in which 4, wherein the cranked arm extends from the distal end of the at least one introducer at an included angle of about, or exceeding, 90° to facilitate the formation of a substantially planar loop formation at the distal end of the at least one introducer.

8. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of preceding claim 1 in which the assembly includes 1, further including at least two introducers, each introducer having a tubular member associated with it.

9. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim ~~8~~ in which ~~8~~, wherein the at least two introducers include a first introducer and a second introducer, the first introducer being received within a passage of the second introducer, a second tubular member, associated with the second introducer, being slidably received within a passage of the second introducer.

10. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim ~~9~~ in which ~~9~~, wherein the second tubular member is carried on a shape-imparting element received within a lumen of the second tubular member so that the second tubular member is able to be formed into a second predetermined shape when the second tubular member is extended from the second introducer.

11. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim ~~10~~ in which ~~10~~, wherein the shape-imparting element associated with the second tubular member extends beyond a distal end of the second tubular member.

12. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim ~~11~~ in which ~~11~~, wherein a distal end of the second shape-imparting element is anchored distally with respect to the distal end of the second tubular member member, but proximally with respect to the distal end of the first introducer.

13. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim ~~12~~ in which ~~12~~, wherein an anchor point of the first shape-imparting element is in register with an anchor point of the second shape-imparting element.

14. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim ~~13~~ in which ~~13~~, wherein both anchor points are arranged on the first introducer.

15. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly of claim ~~10~~ in which ~~10~~, wherein each shape-imparting element is in the form of a shape memory alloy wire.

16. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly which includes assembly, including:  
at least one introducer, ~~the at least one introducer~~ defining a passage;  
an elongate, tubular member slidably received within the passage of the at least one introducer,  
the tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end and a lumen extending  
between the proximal end and the distal end; and  
an elongate, one piece shape-imparting element received in the lumen of the tubular member to  
extend from the proximal end of the tubular member and the at least one introducer and  
through the distal end of the tubular member, a distal end of the one piece  
shape-imparting element extending beyond a distal end of the tubular member and being  
anchored proximally a distal end of the at least one introducer at a location external of the  
at least one introducer, the arrangement being such that, when a distal portion of the  
tubular member is extended beyond the distal end of the at least one introducer, the one  
piece shape-imparting element imparts a predetermined shape to the distal portion of the  
tubular member, the predetermined shape comprising:  
a cranked arm portion extending transversely relative to a longitudinal axis of the at least  
one introducer; and  
a loop formation supported on the cranked arm portion, the loop formation extending about the  
longitudinal axis of the at least one introducer, wherein due to the anchoring of the distal  
end of the one piece shape-imparting element to the at least one introducer, applying  
torsion to the one piece shape-imparting element effects adjustment of a diameter of the  
loop formation of the distal portion of the tubular member.